

DECISION TITLE: Award of contract for Children’s Service IT System
<u>ENTER NAME OF CABINET MEMBER EXERCISING DELEGATED POWERS:</u> Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University
ENTER MONTH IN WHICH DECISION IS BEING TAKEN: April 2023
Deadline date: April 2023

Cabinet portfolio holder:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education, Skills and the University
Responsible Director:	Elaine Redding
Is this a Key Decision?	YES If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan: YES Unique Key decision Reference from Forward Plan: KEY/27MAR23/01
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

1. Approve the contract award of the IT solution supporting Children’s Services via the Data and Application Solutions Framework agreement (RM3821) Lot 3c to LiquidLogic with commencement date 1 May 2023 for a five-year contract period and two optional one-year extensions. The estimated total contract value is £1.5million.
2. Authorise the early termination of the current contract with LiquidLogic for this system with effect from 30 April 2023. This contract is due to expire on 2 August 2023 and its early termination shall enable alignment with the newly procured solution. Early termination is by way of mutual agreement between the Council and supplier and of no cost to the Council.

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 This report is for Councillor Lynne Ayres to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.3 and 3.4.8 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with terms of their portfolio at paragraph (b).

2. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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3. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member is being asked to approve the contract award of the IT solution supporting Children's Services for commencement on 1 May 2023 for a maximum contract term of 7 years (including two 1-year extension periods). The outcome, if agreed, is a guaranteed long-term provision of a known and developed IT system for Children's Services in line with corporate strategies.
- 3.2 Children's Service, including Early Help, is a statutory service in Peterborough, delivering vital services to those requiring it. Supporting this service is an IT solution called LiquidLogic (including a financial management system called ContrOCC). Peterborough and Cambridgeshire have separate LiquidLogic systems but they are supported by a single IT team and are largely configured the same. In 2019, a large programme of activity saw many of the business processes re-engineered to provide a more current and efficient solution supporting a stretched service.
- 3.3 The current contract with LiquidLogic (also competitively procured via the DAS Framework) expires on the 2 August 2023, with no extension options available. Hence, the Council seeks to terminate the existing arrangement 3 months early to align with the new contract award for a longer-term solution for this IT solution. There are no cost implications to terminate the current solution three months early. The solution is run from LiquidLogic's data centre (the cloud), and there are no proposals to change that.

Key Issues

- 3.4 Children's Services has a large programme of change, all supported by LiquidLogic. This includes the implementation of digital portals, allowing both professionals and service users to digitally interact with the service, reducing touch points and improving the service delivery. Now more than ever does the service need a stable, known product to build upon these changes. The pressure on the service to move to an alternative solution during this time risks the provision of support to vulnerable service users.
- 3.5 The current contract was awarded in 2018 and renewed in 2022, during which extensive redesign work was carried out to ensure the product matched the service requirements, and created efficiencies within the processes used. In the 3-4 years since, there has been continuous development of the product to support the service needs and changes to legislation. A change of supplier would require an additional significant investment of £2m plus, destabilising a service that is currently to go through major legislative changes, hence the preferred option to direct award via a public framework.

Procurement process

- 3.6 The Council shall award the contract via the publicly available Crown Commercial Service's Data and Application Solutions (DAS) Framework RM3821 which enables direct award to a supplier. Direct award offers a straightforward way to buy products and services from DAS without the need to run a further competition. The benefit of direct award offers compliant purchasing, without the need for further competition.

4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1

1. *The Economy & Inclusive Growth*

- *Environment (including a summary of the outcome of a completed Carbon Impact Assessment, to be submitted in full to the Transport and Environment Team)*

There will be no change to the carbon impact on the council or city as the proposal is to continue use of the same software as is currently used.

2. *Our Places & Communities*

- *Health and Wellbeing*

Achieve better outcomes for our Children.

3. *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*

The IT solution enables both Childrens Social Care and Early Help to meet the priority outcomes of:

- Children and young people are safe from harm and lead healthy lives.
- Children and young people are confident, resilient, thrive in their learning and engage positively and actively in their communities.
- All young care leavers can access a good, enhanced local offer that meets their health, education, housing and employment needs.

4. *Sustainable Future City Council*

The cloud hosted solution allows us to get value for money, provides a structure for our staff to put the support of our customers at the heart of the system, ensuring robust governance and oversight, a secure platform that can be used in the office, at home or on the road. The system allows us to flex the data we hold to provide insight and enables service delivery that fits the needs of our residents.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Procurement, Legal and Finance who support the proposals within this report.

5.2 Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) 8 March 2023.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 The continued use of a well-developed and invested solution delivering Childrens Services.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 To ensure the stability of a service facing significant delivery challenges, and to ensure the continued value provided by the previous and current investment for a longer-term contract period.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 Go out to market to seek a replacement solution via a competitive tender or mini-competition, however the DAS RM3821 Framework is designed to provide software-led technological solutions whilst also offering a compliant and regulated route to market for public sector organisations.

Not to terminate early the current contract, however, this was discounted due to the imminent expiry of the DAS RM3821 Framework and requirement to procure a longer-term solution under this public framework which offers value for money.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 The current annual system costs are £171k.

It's proposed the first year will be approximately £186k, with following contract years subject to RPI.

A 5 year plus two x 1-year contract term is requested, and therefore total projected costs for the contract value will be approximately £1.5m.

Legal Implications

9.2 The compliant use of direct award via the Data and Application Solutions Framework agreement (RM3821).

Call-off contract between the Council and the framework supplier, Liquid Logic, direct awarded under Lot 3c - Community Health and Social Care for contract period 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2028, with options to extend for two 1-year periods.

Termination notice to be issued to the current supplier, Liquid Logic, for termination of the existing contract on 30 April 2023.

Equalities Implications

9.3 There will be no change to how the service is delivered to the workforce or professionals.

10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

10.1 *None.*

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

11.1 *None.*

12. APPENDICES

12.1 *None.*